

cause and effect: the connection or relationship between a precipitating event or reason, and its effects or results. A cause makes something occur; an effect is the outcome of the cause.

Examples: The cue ball colliding with the eight ball causes the eight ball to roll into the pocket.

The presence of heat causes the water to boil.

The Moon's gravity causes the Earth's tides.

A hard blow to the arm causes a bruise.

Here are some common conjunctions that can be used to express cause and effect:

since	as a result	so
because	because of + noun phrase	therefore
for this reason	due to + noun phrase	consequently

When using conjunctions, it is important to

1. order the cause and effect correctly

Examples:

Incorrect: The weather outside was cold because Sally closed the window.

Correct: Sally closed the window because the weather outside was cold.

Because the weather outside was cold, Sally closed the window.

2. use commas correctly

Examples:

Correct: The weather was cold; therefore, Sally closed the window.

The weather was cold. Therefore, Sally closed the window.

The weather was cold. Consequently, Sally put on her scarf.

A blizzard hit the town. As a result, the schools were closed.

*Note:*

Unacceptable formal writing

The weather was warm. So Jim turned on the air conditioner.

Acceptable formal writing

The weather was warm, so Jim turned on the air conditioner.

<http://lrs.ed.uiuc.edu/students/fwalters/cause.html#causeconj>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cause\\_and\\_effect](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cause_and_effect)